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UNCLAS ADANA 0234

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY,
SEPTEMBER 05, 2003

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for September 05, 2003. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. Bolge / A bag, found in Kucuksaat, a crowded shopping area in old Adana, caused panic in the city. Bomb specialists arrived to check the bag. The bag was empty.

3. Bolge / Sahin Baltaci, who had investments in Imarbank, burned himself in front of Imarbank Resatbey Branch, Adana. An ambulance took Baltaci to the hospital. His treatment will continue.

4. Bolge/ Members of Mersin State Employees' Union, Kamu-Sen, ended their three-day hunger strike.

5. Bolge, Turkiye, Express / After the complaints about the pollution caused by Sugozy Thermo-electric power plant, Adana Government tested the water in Yumurtalik and declared that it was clean.

6. Milli Gazete, Evrensel / State Hospital in Siverek, Sanliurfa province, does not have a working ambulance. Siverek has a population of 250.000 people. (Editor's Note: Two ambulances, which belong to the hospital, don't work).

7. Evrensel / Due to PKK/KADEK's announcement that it was ending the ceasefire, security officials in Cemisgezdek, Tunceli province called upon the people to evacuate the rural areas.

8. Evrensel / It is claimed that about 832 people from the Southeast applied to benefit from the "reintegration law". The article does not provide the source for the figure.

CULTURE and TOURISM

9. Cumhuriyet / In order to protect the historical and natural value of the island, the Culture and Tourism Center prohibited people to have picnics on Akdamar Island, Gevas, Van province.
REID